

# 7-Day Mid-South Mississippi Tour (Chicago Departure) ( IT7 )

Departure Date : Wednesday (All Year)

## Price List

1st & 2nd Person	3rd Person	4th Person	Single
\$793/person	\$295	\$525	\$1190

## Departure & Return Information:

Time	Location	Address
8:00 AM	Chinatown, Chicago	207 W Cermak Rd. Chicago, IL 60616

- After tour ends, you can choose to drop off in Houston Chinatown or Crowne Plaza Near Sugar Land, or flight departs from IAH, HOU airport after 20:00.

## Itinerary Highlights

- I. Oak Alley Plantation, Swamp Tour, Garden District, National World War II Museum and Mississippi Steamed Jazz Cruise, fully discover the amazing New Orleans. In-Depth sightseeing within most of attractions.
- II. Get to know why Everything is bigger in Texas or Texas size.
- III. Chances to see NBA games in Houston Dallas and San Antonio.

**Visiting:** Chicago, Houston, Austin, Memphis, San Louis, San Antonio, New Orleans.

# Itinerary

**Day 1** Chicago – Illinois – St. Louis  
Hotel : Comfort Inn Festus or equivalent

First, we will go south to Springfield, hometown of Abraham Lincoln, one of the most respected presidents in the United States. We will see his former home where Lincoln lived in for 17 years. Right behind his residence, there is the State Capitol of Illinois, the tallest non-skyscraper capitol building in the United States. Then we will head for St. Louis, the largest metropolitan area of East Missouri, sitting by the banks of Mississippi River which is the longest river of the country. Located in Central America, St. Louis is right at the geographical center point of the United States. It used to be one of the busiest train transport hubs in the world. It held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summer Olympics in 1904. It is also well known for being the beginning point of the Westward Movement. Visit the Gateway Arch, a 630-foot monument, is the world's

tallest arch, commemorating the striving men during this historical migration and land expansion. We will also visit the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis. The interior of the building is covered by 41.5 million pieces of mosaic glass in more than 7000 colors. It is one of the world's largest mosaic collections nowadays. Our tour group will head to the hotel by dusk.

## Day 2

### St. Louis - Memphis

Hotel : Ramada Pearl/Jackson Airport or equivalent

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After going across Mississippi River the second time during this tour, we reach Memphis, the biggest city of Tennessee, the land of music. Memphis is a city of reminiscence. The city was named after the ancient capital of Egypt by the Nile River. It has the same scorching sun as that in Egypt. The city echoes its Egyptian reference city with a huge modern looking Pyramid that we can see on the bus. Visit Graceland, the mansion home of Elvis Presley, commonly regarded as “the King of Rock and Roll”, “the most significant cultural icon of the 20th century”. Elvis’ hit songs can be heard everywhere in Graceland to pay homage to this beloved superstar. Browse Elvis Presley’s fancy mansion with an interactive iPad to feel the legend. Later, go to the hotel near Jackson.

## Day 3

### Oak Alley Plantation-New Orleans (Night Tour)

Hotel : Wingate by Wyndham Slidell/New Orleans East Area or equivalent

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When we reach Oak Alley Plantation, a U.S. National Historic Landmark located at the west suburban of New Orleans, our attention, right away, would be directed to the astonishing beauty that the plantation presents. Visitors may even feel that they were taken into the scene of *Gone with Wind*. The master’s big house is contrasting with the slave quarter nearby. Two rows of 300-years-old oak trees are not only concealing the amazing quarter-mile-long garden road, but also the bitterness of the south had borne after Civil War. The natural environment of New Orleans is as distinctive as its local culture. We will also have a swamp tour, a fun adventurous yet safe boat ride that showcases the unique eco system of New Orleans region. You’ll have opportunities to see alligators, snakes, turtles, egrets, herons, ibis and many other species as well as many strange looking plants living in the swamp. It is like entering a land of unknown. The natural disaster remains of Hurricane Katrina of ten years ago can still be seen. It is so fascinating of the untouched swamp wildness of the pristine beauty. After going to the hotel, it is recommended to take an optional New Orleans night city tour at \$25 per person. New Orleans is a city with rich French and Spanish heritage. In its French Quarter, streets are narrow and crowded with French-style architectures, much like in France. In between corners of every old French style townhouse, you may find a live jazz performance; every narrow block you turn to, there might be an oyster cocktail bar.. It feels like many festivals are going on simultaneously. You can visit the antique stores alongside the Royal Street, or randomly jump in a jazz bar on the Bourbon Street. The night is long, and the nightlife is on.

## Day 4

### WWII Museum - Mississippi Steamboat Cruise

Hotel : Crowne Plaza Near Sugar Land or equivalent

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Enjoy your breakfast before we start the tour!

First thing in the morning we are going to visit the **National World War II Museum**, formerly known as the D-Day Museum, a military history museum emphasizes the American experience in World War II.

Around noon we will take you to the **Mississippi Steamed Jazz Cruise**. Your two-hour cruise from the heart of the French Quarter shows you why the city was founded on the beautiful crescent of the lower Mississippi River. New Orleans is an important historical city in South US and one of the major ports, also well-known as the birthplace of jazz. The live Jazz performance

## Day 5

### Austin-San Antonio (Night Tour)

Hotel : Best Western Plus Fiesta San Antonio/Wyndham or equivalent

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We will arrive at the Capital city of Texas: Austin. Guests will have a chance to go inside for the **State Capitol** which was completed in 1888 in Downtown Austin, contains the offices and chambers of the Texas Legislature and the Office of the Governor. Our tour guides will take you for an exclusive tour to see the Senate and House chamber, Governor's public reception room, State Capitol library etc. (If the capitol is closed on the day we visit, we will see the outside view of capitol).

Next, we will visit **University of Texas at Austin**, one of the best public research universities in US. Our tour in campus will lead you to see the fountain, statues and UT Tower. **Texas Military Forces Museum**, a museum about the history of Texas' militia, volunteer forces and Texas Military Forces from 1823 to the present. After we pass by Hope Outdoor Gallery, we will head to San Antonio. At night, you may choose to join our **Night Tour** in San Antonio after you take a rest. We will take you to see the tower of Friendship, tower of Americas, the river walk cruise for night view.

## Day 6

### San Antonio – Houston

Hotel : Crowne Plaza Near Sugar Land or equivalent

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In the morning, we will go to the **Alamo** Mission. The Battle of the Alamo was a pivotal event in the Texas Revolution. Following a 13-day siege, Mexican troops under President General Antonio López de Santa Anna launched an assault on the Alamo Mission, killing all of the Texan defender. For Texans, the Battle of the Alamo became an enduring symbol of their heroic resistance to oppression and their struggle for independence, which they won later that year.

Next, **the Buckhorn Museum** features wildlife from all over the world; including fish from the seven seas, animals from every continent and strange animal oddities which have been collected for over 100 years! Our exhibit halls are comprised of over 520 species of wildlife—many of which are record holders. **Historic Market Square**. Explore over 100 locally owned shops and stalls, all at a festive indoor mall famously described as the largest Mexican market outside Mexico. Also, we are going to the 750-foot-tall **Tower of the Americas** provides guests the most spectacular view of the Alamo City.

## Day 7

### Houston – Home

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Enjoy your breakfast before we start the tour!

We will go for the **Houston Museum of Natural Science**. The museum complex consists of a central facility with four floors of natural science halls and exhibits, the Burke Baker Planetarium, the Cockrell Butterfly Center, and the Wortham Giant Screen Theatre. We can't miss The Morian Hall of Paleontology,

which is packed with prehistoric beasts, and does not have the same stagnant displays of ancient skeletons standing in a row that many visitors are accustomed to seeing. Also, we will visit the **Rice University**, a private research university established in 1912. Rice is generally considered the top university and the most selective institute of higher education in the state of Texas. We will have a chance to see the "Willy's statue," the memorial to university founder William Marsh Rice, as well as James Turrell's "Twilight Epiphany" Skyspace. Furthermore, we will stop by **Toyota Center**, an indoor arena famous of the Houston Rockets. Afternoon we will go to Outlets.

## Special Remarks

### Scenic Spots Notes:

1. Itinerary will be subject to traffic and weather. The sequence of the attractions might be changed according to actual and practical situation for better service.
2. In case of attraction closures (due to holidays or construction etc.), tour guide may make some necessary changes to the itinerary accordingly.
3. This tour doesn't accept any City Pass or your own tickets for the attractions. Guests must purchase admission tickets from tour guides.

### Refund Policy:

1. If the weather condition, war, general strikes and other unforeseen circumstances interrupt the journey, our company reserve the right to rearrange the journey without refunding the tour fee.
2. If visitors cannot join the tour because of personal reason, the fee for hotels and transportation is not refundable.

### Tour fee notes:

1. Tour fee only includes transportation & hotel.
2. Tour fee excludes the meals, attractions tickets, service fee (\$10/person/day), and any private expenses (such as hotel telephone charges, laundry etc.).

### Attraction Admission List

Attraction	Adult	Senior (65+)	Children (3-12)
Graceland (Elvis Presley Mansion)	\$40.00	\$36(62+)	\$19.00 (7-12) FREE(6 and Under)
Oak Alley Plantation	\$25.00	\$22.50	\$7(6-12) \$10(13-18)
Mardi Gras World	\$22.00	\$17.00	\$14.00
Jazz Steamboat Mississippi (Including Lunch)	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$23(6-12) \$9.5(2-5)
National World War II Museum	\$27.00	\$23.50	\$17.5(under 12)
Swamp Boat Tour	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$16.00

Rock City	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$13.00
Dixie Stampede Dinner Show	\$67.00	\$67.00	\$41.50
Royal Carriages French Quarter	\$20	\$20	\$20(2-12yr)
Kentucky Horse Park	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$9.00
Purdue University Campus Tour	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$7.00
Ark Encounter	\$48.00	\$38.00	\$25.00 ( 13-17 ) \$15.00 (5-12)
San Antonio Night Tour (Including Riverwalk Cruise)	\$35	\$30	\$25(2-11yr)
Tower of Americas	\$12	\$10	\$9 ( 4-12yr )
Buckhorn Saloon& Texas Ranger Museum	\$22	\$22	\$17(3-12yr)
Houston Museum of Natural Science	\$25	\$15 (62+)	\$15 (3-11yr)

Price and schedule are subject to seasonal change without notice